

1987

TALES OF THE UNUSUAL

STORY/ART BY SUNGDAE OH

THE RESET ELEVATOR
EPISODE ONE



WHAT'S UP
WITH HER?

SHE LOOKS
TOTALLY
OUT OF IT.

I THINK LAST NIGHT
SHE TRIED A RESET BUT
RAN AWAY HALFWAY
THROUGH.

A comic panel showing three people in a room. On the left, a woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a white shirt and a brown jacket, looks towards the center. In the middle, a man with dark hair, wearing a white shirt, a dark tie, and a brown jacket, looks towards the right. On the right, another man with dark hair, wearing a brown jacket, is looking down at something in his hands. The background is a simple room with a window.

I'D NEVER HAVE
THE NERVE TO TRY
THAT.

THEY CALL IT A RESET, BUT
IT'S MORE LIKE SUICIDE..

SHE SEEMS LIKE
THE TYPE WHO'D
TRY IT

A comic panel showing a close-up of the woman from the previous panel. She has dark hair and is wearing a white shirt and a brown jacket. Her expression is serious and somewhat somber.

I GUESS IT'S TRUE
WHAT THEY SAY...

A RESET'LL EITHER KILL
YOU OR MAKE YOU INSANE...







DO YOU THINK BLACKBEARD
OVER THERE'S DONE A RESET?

HAHA

I WOULDN'T BE
SURPRISED.

RESET.

A RESET IS A KIND OF RITUAL THAT ALLOWS
YOU TO DEFY THE LAWS OF SPACETIME
AND GO BACK TO THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN,
KIND OF LIKE A TIME MACHINE.
BASICALLY, IT'S A WAY OF RESTARTING YOUR LIFE.

ACTUALLY, I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT AT FIRST EITHER.
I FIGURED IT WAS JUST A STUPID OCCULT RUMOUR
THAT SOMEBODY HAD MADE UP.

BUT I KEPT HEARING ABOUT STRANGE STORIES
ABOUT IT, AND I STARTED TO BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE
REAL.

OF COURSE, I STILL DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS
ABOUT IT...





MY NAME'S JAEYOUNG SHIN, PEOPLE IN MY CLASS
USUALLY CALL ME NAMES LIKE "BLACKBEARD", OR
"THE PIRATE KING."



AND THIS DILAPIDATED, MOULDY UNDERGROUND ROOM,
IS WHERE I LIVE WITH MY GRANDMA.





ANYONE CAN TELL FROM SEEING ME THAT
I'M NEVER GONNA BE MUCH IN LIFE.

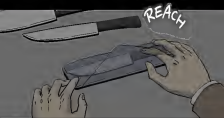


IF THERE'S A GOD, THEN MY LIFE IS JUST A TOY
HE'S PLAYING AROUND WITH.

WILL

ONCE HAPPY I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS ON THE LAST FIVE YEARS.
I WANTED TO BE HAPPY LIKE SINCE MY PARENTS GOT DIVORCED
EVERYONE AT SCHOOL FEELS LIKE THEY ALL HAVE SOMETHING OF THE ONE
I GOT IN AN ACCIDENT WHEN I WAS LITTLE, BUT I DON'T KNOW OF
THEIR CASES ONE BY ONE ABOUT HOW IT MAKES ME FEEL.
ON MY GOOD AT STUDYING, AND I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND.
HOW COULD SOMEONE LIKE ME HAVE ANYTHING TO LOOK
FORWARD TO IN LIFE, I'M NOT GOOD AT STUDYING, AND
I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE FRIEND. HOW COULD SOMEONE LIKE ME HAVE
ANYTHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN LIFE.

BUT I'M NOT GONNA BE HIS PLAYTHING ANY MORE.





I'M SORRY,
GRANDMA.

I'LL TRY NOT TO
DISAPPOINT YOU
IN MY NEXT LIFE.



I'M GONNA
CHANGE..

THIS WHOLE CRAPPY
LIFE FROM THE BEGINNING..



THIS BUILDING IS WHERE I LIVED AS A CHILD..
I KNOW IT PRETTY WELL,
SO I CHOSE IT AS THE SPOT FOR THE RESET.



IT NEEDS TO BE 2 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING,
AND YOU NEED AT LEAST A TEN-STORY BUILDING.



AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THE ELEVATOR,
THIS IS WHERE THE RESET HAPPENS.



A man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a brown suit jacket, white shirt, and dark tie, stands in a dimly lit room. He has a serious expression. To his left, a speech bubble contains the word "STEP".

STEP

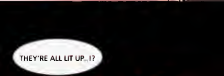
THE RITUAL IS SIMPLE.



FIRST, YOU ENTER YOUR DATE OF BIRTH...
(PRESS 10 FOR 00)



AND THEN PRESS THE OPEN AND
CLOSE BUTTONS AT THE SAME TIME...







KRRRRRR

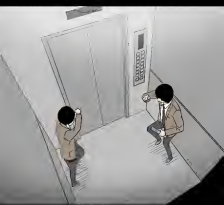
VVVVVVV



UGH...!

.....!







TO COMPLETE THE RESET..

YOU HAVE TO KILL THE
COPY OF YOURSELF
IN THE ELEVATOR..!



A close-up illustration of a hand holding a knife. The hand is light-skinned and wears a dark wristband. The knife has a dark handle and a sharp, metallic blade. The background is dark and indistinct.

BUT WAIT, I THOUGHT
IT'D JUST BE ME KILLING HIM.

IT'S AS IF WE BOTH
SUMMONED EACH OTHER
FROM DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS...

THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE
HOW OTHER PEOPLE
DESCRIBED IT..I

A close-up illustration of a man's face. He has dark hair and a wide-eyed, shocked expression. He is wearing a brown jacket over a white shirt. The background is dark and indistinct.

IS THAT A _

KNIFE..?



A close-up, black and white comic panel showing a man's face. He has dark hair and a wide-eyed, shocked expression with his mouth slightly open. A speech bubble is positioned to the left of his face.

W-WAIT..

A black and white comic panel showing a hand holding a knife. The hand is wearing a dark sleeve and a white cuff. The knife is held horizontally, with the blade pointing to the right. Below the hand, a person's chest is visible, wearing a dark shirt. The word 'FLUTTER' is written in a stylized, curved font near the chest.

FLUTTER





To be continued..